

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated January 24, 2007.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

The Applicant maintains that the present invention is not obvious from the combined disclosures of Mori and Dymetman.

The purpose of Mori's printer is to enable users to request re-prints of printed documents simply by scanning a barcode. To this end, Mori provides a printer which can print identification barcodes. In addition, Mori's printers have a barcode scanner associated therewith, which enables users to re-print documents simply by scanning the identification barcode. The document identity is used to retrieve the document file from a computer system, thereby enabling the printer to print a duplicate document.

In his recent Office Action, the Examiner argued that it would be obvious place Mori's scanner anywhere on his printer, either upstream or downstream of the printing mechanism. Furthermore, in support of his assertion that Mori describes *automatic* scanning of barcodes, the Examiner points to Figure 3 of Mori, which shows a barcode scanner positioned in a media feed tray.

The Applicant contends that Mori fails to teach the present invention. Given that Mori is concerned only with printing duplicates, in Figure 3 it must be assumed that the user places a barcoded page into the manual media feed tray, the scanner scans the barcode and the printer prints a duplicate document using a fresh page from its media supply. No other interpretation is reasonable, because the consequence of scanning a barcode in Mori is always printing a duplicate document. Therefore, it would be nonsensical if Mori were to use the barcoded document on which to print the duplicate; the result would be *overprinting* a duplicate document onto the barcoded original, which makes no sense at all.

Regardless, the Applicant has amended the independent claims to further distinguish the present invention from what is disclosed by Mori. Claim 1 now specifies that the sensor is configured such that *all* media on which the print mechanism has printed the document information are automatically sensed by the sensor.

Mori does not teach this arrangement anywhere. In this regard, the Applicant reiterates that Mori has no motivation to scan *all* barcodes, because the whole point of Mori's printer is to provide users with the *choice* of ordering re-prints. In each of the arrangements shown in Figures 2 to 11 of Mori, the user is given the choice of whether or not he wishes to re-print a document; if does wish to re-print he is required to *manually* request this by scanning a barcode *e.g.* by placing a barcoded page under a barcode scanner or by placing a wand-like scanner over a page.

It is further maintained that Dymetman provides the skilled person with no suggestion to modify Mori's printer in accordance with the present invention. Dymetman merely teaches the desirability of documents printed with identity codes, but makes no suggestion to the skilled person as to how he can generate such documents. Dymetman's optical sensor is plainly not used for associating document identities with document information. Dymetman does not contain any teaching as to how this might be done and the skilled person finds

nothing in Mori that might assist him, because Mori is concerned only with enabling users to obtain duplicates of barcoded documents.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is maintained that the present invention is not obvious in view of the combination of Mori and Dymetman.

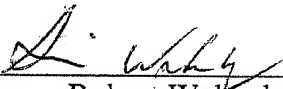
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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